The F.L.U.G

TI ROUNDUP

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE FOREST LANE T.I.
USERS GROUP DALLAS, TX

SUPPORTING
USERS OF THE TI-99/4A
AND COMPATIBLES

MARCH 1989
VOLUME 4 ISSUE Ø3
Editor: Louis/McCain

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NEWSLETTER Librarian:	Marty McCain	SOFTWARE Librarian:	Sam Lee
LOANER Equipment:	Jimmy Carson	MEETING PROGRAM Chairman:	Anthony Warner

THE NEXT MEETING of the Forest Lane Users Group is: MARCH 5th, 2:ØØ p.m.

MARCH MEETING INFORMATION

2:ØØ BUSINESS MEETING
- Old Business
  - Reading of the last minutes
  - TIBBS Report
  - MEMBERSHIP Report
  - TREASURY Report
  - Discussion Topics:
    - Newsletter Limitations
    - APRIL Fund Raiser/Food Fest/Floppydisk Free-for-all
- New Business

3:15 SOFTWARE DEMONSTRATION
- The Printer's Apprentice
- Hardware/Software Question and Answer Session
- FAIRE Promo Give away

4:ØØ HELP SESSION: Q&A, TRADING, LIBRARY ACCESS
- BUY/SELL

5:ØØ Meeting Close

RESOURCE MATERIALS

Marty McCain

Well, no one has spoken about wanting anything yet, so my job has been pretty easy as far as that goes. The compendium of videos made at the Texas TI Faire are to be ready soon. We might show a few minutes of it at the April meeting. Oh, wouldn't that be exciting! Only a year after the fact. Well, no one has expressed the interest to compile them, so things have been slow in the works as far as that goes. Did you even know we had them? On the other side of magnetic media, floppy disk supplies are running low. Looks like time for us to buy more. Could get them for 19 cents for DSDD in bulk(200) or go the the other route and pay twice as much for them if we can't find enough people needing them. I have had one tape demo request....PRESS. Just gotta wait 'til one of our own gets it and gets good so I can tape the workings.

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGES

I have been recording all the newsletters received with my handy-dandy club manager and newsletter update program I have written to facilitate my needs. Lots of neat information in them. TI-BASE tutorials, Disk sector repair columns. TI-Writer formatter, c99 articles, and much, much more. To get all of this info in order, it is going to take a few willing bodies to pick out a file from the library and scan the newsletters in it and record any key info on interesting articles. Just some simple DV80 typing and a little reading.

ATTENTION NEWSLETTER LIBRARIANS: Our newsletter is going to be exchanged bi-monthly as we are only printing it that often. The interim months will only be mailed to club members as just a reminder and any officer information. Several groups have been dropped from the mailing list due to lack of exchange on their part (namely two newsletters in a whole year). We cannot afford to exchange with groups if it is one-sided. We need at least a 50% exchange rate to maintain the exchange, i.e. we need at least 6 issues or else they are dropped from the list. We would prefer all 12, but realize that even we hit at an 80% level sometimes.

BULLETIN BOARD

Texlink has had the usual problems with it, just software bugs. Other than that, things are going well. I am going to remove the large fairware programs, namely the ones that take up 250 sectors or so, and make them available on request. The only people who don't have them are new users, and then most of them already do. This will allow for more space for uploads and will help us out until we get the hard drive operational again (if we do!). As it stands now all work done on the system must be done by the sysop. There are no provisions for a co-sysop to change any files, upgrade users, delete old files, switch any out, or reset the clock (as it has occasionally become necessary to do). For this reason, I am looking at switching software to a more accessible program. I am starting on modifying a very nice PD BBS and will test it over the next several months. Maybe by this summer I will present it before the group to vote on the switch. I am sure that this will be a welcomed addition. Perhaps there will be a new version of TEXLINK released this spring that will accommodate these needs and we will not need to look elsewhere. TEXLINK is a powerful BBS, but is an isolationist when it comes to interfacing with operators.

Disk Director - software in the making

Have you ever had the need to compile a directory for your disk library. When the hardcopy gets ragged out and full of ink marks, you need an easy way to update disk information, and make a new one. Want to just view it online? While I have seen a few different types of catalogs for the TI, I have not found the one I needed. So I made it. I figure the average TI buff has a few hundred disks and would like to know what is on all of them. The operation of the program is 100%, but I am re-coding and improving it, so you won't see it just yet. I will put it on the BBS for you to d/l just as soon as I get it done. If you have a better one than this, I would appreciate a copy. If not, here you go. Hope you enjoy it. MM

CREATE YOUR OWN CURSOR by Bob Turner New Horizons-Northwest Ohio 99'ers

I don't quite know how to give the proper credit to this routine, but whoever discovered this way to modify the cursor is an unsung hero.

While I have experimented with TI Extended Basic, I have learned many ways to make it do the things about which the manual never told you. Also, I have learned not to forget the clever programmers who offered their information and discoveries to the TI community. Creating a cursor is rather easy, and once done, the cursor routine can always be used in other programs. If you understand how to define a character then understanding how to create a cursor is just as easy.

First, here is the TI Extended basic code to re-define the cursor:

```
                                        decimal
                                        1
                                        2631
                                        84268421
100 CALL CLEAR :: CALL INIT       row1  ########   = 255
110 CALL LOAD(8196,63,248)        row2  #      #   = 129
120 CALL LOAD(16376,67,85,82,     row3  #      #   = 129
    83,79,82,48,8)                row4  #      #   = 129
130 CALL LOAD(12288,255,129,      row5  #      #   = 129
    129,129,129,129,129,255)      row6  #      #   = 129
140 CALL LOAD(12296,2,0,3,240,    row7  #      #   = 129
    2,1,48,0,2,2,0,8,4,32,32,36,4,91) row8  ########   = 129
150 CALL LINK("CURSOR")
```

Line 130 defines the cursor description (what is looks like). Defining the cursor is made rather easy because you are not using HEX but decimal. As you can see, the values come from adding the total value across each row to define the segments in the cursor. (Note #'s in the figure and the weighted value that was totaled.)

After defining your custom made cursor, save it to disk and you are ready for your first run. Run your program and look at your cursor. If you don't like it merely make some changes and run again. repeat this process until you are satisfied with your new cursor. The new cursor will stay until you turn off the console.

THE LIBRARY CORNER

The following is the list of updates to the library to date. I am in the process of changing over to flippies and condensing the programs in the library. I am also in the process of making a backup of the library.

The software library catalog is available at club meetings in hardcopy for $2.00 each, it is now over 25 pages long.

Programs are provided by complete diskette only. There is no copy fee for club members if you provide the diskette. There will be a $1.00 per diskette copy fee if we provide the diskette. A copy of a diskette from the library for a non-member will be $3.00.

I would like the following information included with any donations that we receive for the library. Type of program, language and load, and a short description of the program. I need to know what kind of programs you would like for the DOM.

That's all for now.

SAM

SOFTWARE LIBRARY ADDITIONS AND UPDATED DISKS

AUGUST 1988
DSKU, COMMUN7000, COMMUN7001, DOCS1000, DOCS1001, DOCS1002, XBSCUT2003.
XBSCUT2004.

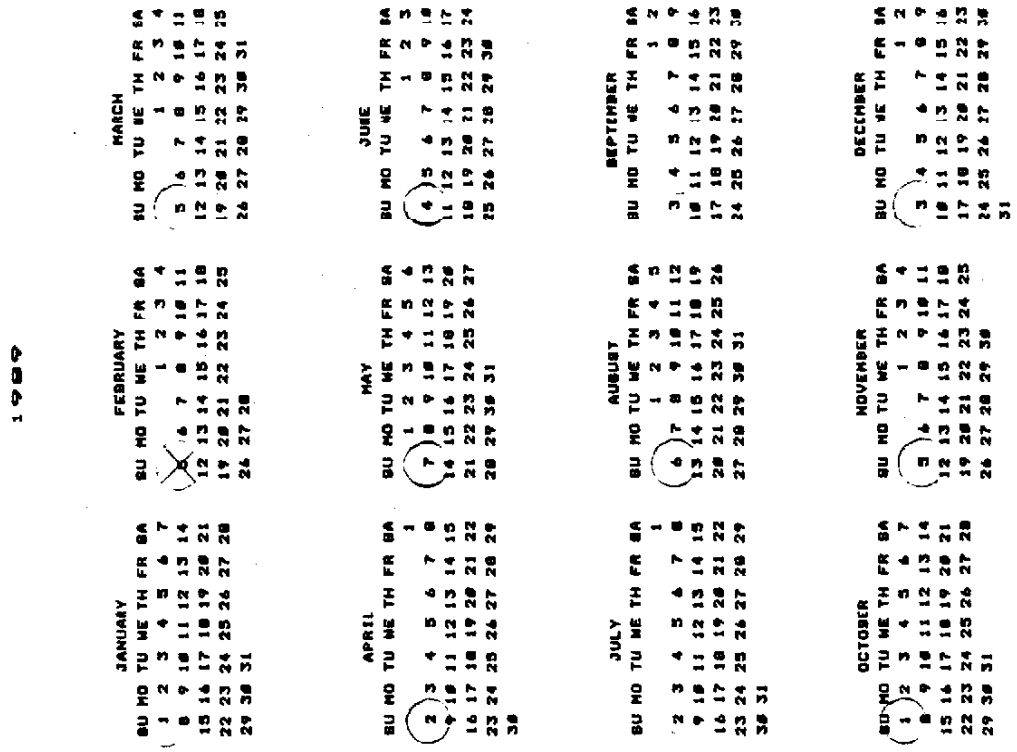
DISK OF THE MONTH, AUG88DOM, SEPT88DOM, SEPT88DOM-.

SEPTEMBER 1988
DOCS1001, BASCUT1002, XBSCUT2001, XBSCUT2002, XBSCUT2003, XBSCUT2004,
DOCS1000, XBSCMU2600, XBSCMU2601, XBSCMU2602, XBSCMU2603, XBSCMU2604,
BASCMU1200, BASCMU1201, BASCMU1202, FUNNELWEB V4.12.

OCTOBER 1988
COMMUN7001(TELCO221), DOCS1000(TELDOC221), NOV88/DOM,
XBSCMU2606, XBSCMU2607, BASCMU1202, BASCMU1203.
As of October all of the music disks have been updated. There have been quite a few new additions to these disks.

NOVEMBER 1988
GRAPHS6000, GRAPHS6001, GRAPHS6002, GRAPHS6003, GRAPHS6004, GRAPHS6005,
GRAPHS6006, GRAPHS6007, GRAPHS6008, GRAPHS6009, GRAPHS6010, GRAPHS6011,
GRAPHS6012, GRAPHS6013, GRAPHS6014, GRAPHS6015, GRAPHS6016, GRAPHS6017,
GRAPHS6018, GRAPHS6019, GRAPHS6020, GRAPHS6021, GRAPHS6022, GRAPHS6023,
GRAPHS6024, GRAPHS6025, GRAPHS6026, GRAPHS6027, GRAPHS6028, GRAPHS6029,
GRAPHS6030, GRAPHS6031, GRAPHS6032, GRAPHS6033, GRAPHS6034, GRAPHS6035

DECEMBER 1988
E/AUTL3000, DOCS1001, XBSCUT2004, COMMUN7000, DOCS1000



There is a group buy on a Myarc HFDC, Price for a mass buy is $268.ØØ + shipping and handling. Contact Tom Collins on Texlink or The Orphan BBS.

Some handy phone numbers for some important people !!!! Call us if you need anything.

Marty McCain	(214)262-Ø452
Jim Louis	(817)795-9345
Oscar Smith	(214)227-3259

If you have anything you would like put into the newsletter, contact the editors. Buy/sell/trade or otherwise.

LOADING PROGRAMS from CASSETTE

First of all, I will say that I DON'T Know All About the machine operations of the 99/4A, and that is one reason I have been digging up information of this type. Now I have an excuse for trying to put it into some coherent form.

1. Console Basic only accesses (14536 bytes of) the VDP memory, even when operating with PEB, and therefore can only load a Program to that area. In fact, with disk, it actually only has 12448 bytes available, unless CALL FILES(1) is used, then 13480 bytes are available for THE PROGRAM PLUS ALL VARIABLES AND VALUES created during RUNning. And each variable, when assigned a value, occupies (9 bytes + name length) more memory than before the program started to RUN. The disk controller itself allocates 2088 bytes out of VDP--you can regain 1036 bytes of this by:

```
CALL FILES(1)     (enter)
NEW               (enter)
OLD CS1...etc
```

2. Extended Basic itself uses 608 bytes more memory than Console Basic, leaving 13928 bytes without a disk or only 11840 bytes for Program storage and RUNning space with a disk, or 12876 bytes if CALL FILES(1) is used. HOWEVER....

A. Programs use more space RUNning than just "as typed".

B. The computer needs a 256 byte buffer to SAVE or OLD with a cassette, so maximum Program size to be "cassetted" is actually (approx.) 14280 bytes in Console Basic, or 13224 bytes if disk system is present and CF(1) has been done; and 13672 bytes with X-Basic, no disk, or 12620 bytes with X-Basic and a CALL FILES(1).

So our TI'er will just fix all this by putting in the 32k memory expansion, then when we do a "SIZE" we see that we have 24488 bytes of PROGRAM space and 11840 bytes of STACK available. Great, now we can load up from cassette! Wrong! What happens here is strange, but the cassette uses VDP memory as a temporary buffer before transferring the Program into or out of the 24k Memory Expansion, and ONLY 12620 bytes can be handled, IF a CALL FILES(1) has been executed. This is 11840 - 256 + 518 + 518 bytes. And this equals 49 sectors on a disk, which will cause the program to be in Internal/Variable 254 form on the disk, which to some extent bypasses the CALL FILES activity, but makes reversing the Loading procedure to a new SAVE CS1 tricky. It is possible to get a program OFF of cassette using the disk and X-Basic and then NOT be able to ever put the program BACK onto cassette! Also, if CF(1) is used before SAVEing a long program to disk, it must be used every TIme before OLDing the program back....a pain! Remember, though, that for disk or cassette, BASIC can OLD or SAVE an X-Basic Program. So, to get a longer X-Basic or BASIC file from cassette TO disk, try BASIC and use the CF(1) trick, but use X-Basic to load it and RUN it if it is an X-Basic Program. It IS possible to play tricks on the "VDP Top Of Memory Address" word at -31999,A,B but I don't recommend it.

The most RELIABLE method of getting a Program off of a cassette and onto disk, if CALL FILES(1) and BASIC doesn't do it, is to use X-Basic and MERGE:

A. Using Basic and the PEB off, load the program from cassette. Type LIST 32767 (enter) to LIST the last line of the Program, and write down this line #.

B. Pick a line # about 20% into the Program, and use Function-3 to erase Lines from the start down to that Line! Then SAVE it back to cassette.

C. OLD CS1 the original program again, and erase about an equal number of lines AFTER that reference Line #. Again, SAVE the shortened Program back to cassette.

D. NOW turn the console off, PEB on, X-Basic into console and turn it on. Bring up X-Basic and Load (OLD) the first of the "shortened" programs from CS1, then SAVE it to disk as SAVE DSK1.SHORTA,MERGE .

E. Then do the same for the second short Program,' as SAVE DSK1.SHORTB,MERGE .

F. THEN type:

```
NEW   (enter)
MERGE DSK1.SHORTA   (enter) and wait a long time.
then: MERGE DSK1.SHORTB   (enter) and wait a long time.
then: SAVE DSK1.name      (enter) and you should have the
```

complete program on disk in the proper form, and loadable as OLD DSK1.name. Remember to RUN it in X-Basic or Basic as required.

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDANCE AND EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS TO :

The Forest Lane Users Group P.O. Box 743005 Dallas, TX 75374-3005

GROUP BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM

Metro (214) 263 - 7648 24 Hours 300/1200 Baud
Logon 8N1 and follow directions to gain access. Open to everyone. Limited access for non-group members. Supports Xmodem transfer capability.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership to the Forest Lane Users Group includes a subscription to our monthly newsletter mailed to you, full access to the FLUG TEXLINK BBS, access to the FLUG software library of public domain and fairware programs, as well as many other benefits. Annual memberships are $20. For more info. please contact the BBS or drop a card in the mail to the membership chairman.

NEWSLETTER INPUT

Please send all newsletter input, articles, pictures, files, or letters to the Newsletter Editor at the PO Box. If able, please upload any materials to the BBS. All material for the next issue must be received no later than two weeks before the meeting date in order to make the deadline.

FLUG MEETING INFO

Our meetings are held on the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m. at the SC Cafeteria at the main TI plant on Central Expressway and LBJ Freeway in North Dallas. Just east of Central Expressway on LBJ (I635) is the Floyd Rd. exit. Take this down to the stoplight, and turn left onto Floyd Rd. Go thru the next light (Walnut) on to a flashing light and turn left into the TI plant The Texins Activity Center will be on your right after you have turned off Floyd Rd. Past the Center on about 100 ft. is a stop sign, and just past that is a covered walkway on the right. A sign on the walkway will read Employment Center. Park across the street from the end of the walkway and follow the covered walk to the SC Cafeteria building. This bldg. also contains the TI Health center, the TI Employment center, and conference rooms. Take the door on the left and enter into a hallway through an electronic door. Down the hall there will be the cafeteria and the conference rooms are located diagonally up to the right. Signs are posted directing the way. Please try to show up about before 2:00 as we begin promptly.

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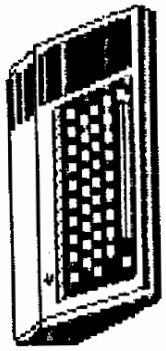

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